

Testimony of Gregory B. Allard

On behalf of the **Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers**

concerning

**SB763- AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE FOR POLICE OFFICERS,
FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS WITH POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS
DISORDER**

Public Safety and Security Committee, Thursday February 9, 2017

Senator Larson, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Verrengia and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, my name is Gregory Allard and I am the Vice President at American Ambulance Service, Inc. and a member of the Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify about my concerns with Senate Bill 763- An Act Concerning Workers' Compensation Coverage for Police Officers, Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Emergency medical technicians by virtue of their education, training and duty to act are routinely called upon to respond to, assess, treat, transport, or make presumptions of death of victims in the immediate aftermath of violent acts. Emergency medical professionals who go into this career do so understanding and expecting to see such tragedies and nonetheless choose the career. It is common for EMTs and paramedics to encounter such events as the first responder on scene or even as a supplemental responder.

What is not common or expected however is for the emergency medical services professional to witness the violent act itself and this is where we draw our specific distinction and respectfully request an exemption. We request that language be added that exempts emergency medical technicians and other EMS professionals who respond within the course of their duties to the aftermath of such acts.

Ambulance providers pay some of the highest workers' compensation rates due to the nature of the employment. This bill would cause an increasing hardship on all providers at a time when Medicaid and Medicare rates have been cut.

I urge the Public Safety and Security Committee to consider my testimony and amend the proposal so that the bill exempts emergency medical technicians who respond in the "immediate aftermath" of such events.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory B. Allard